

Virginia Department of Emergency Management
Virginia Emergency Operations Center
10501 Trade Court, Richmond, VA 23236

Spot Report # 2
Appomattox Gas Pipe Line Explosion
15 September 2008, 1200 Hours

New Information in Bold Italic font

Summary:

At 0818 hours, 14 September the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) was notified by the Appomattox County Emergency Coordinator of an explosion and fire on the Williams Energy Transco natural gas pipeline located near State Routes 26 and 460 in the County. ***Local, State and Federal agencies returned to the scene in the early hours of 15 September to continue damage assessments and investigation of the incident.***

VDEM / VEOC Actions:

- VDEM Regional Coordinator M. Cocker and VDEM Regional Hazmat Officer W. Collins were notified and responded to the scene to assist local fire units at 0845 hours, 14 September.
- The Roanoke and Salem Regional Hazmat Response Teams were requested to assist and responded with 12 personnel and equipment and were in enroute at 0945 hours.
- At further requests of local officials the VEOC Technical Support Unit (TSU) has responded to the scene at 1400 hours along with 3 personnel to provide a base of operations and interoperable communications to first responders and other agencies on scene. This will be for a 24 / 7, 72 hour deployment. 2 additional support vehicles have also responded to the scene.
- A Mobile Command Post from neighboring Amherst County is enroute to the scene to assist in the response effort.
- The VEOC continues to monitor the situation and will be providing updates.
- A conference call was held at 1120 hours with members of the on call VEOC Incident Manage Cadre (IMC) in response to this incident.
- At the request of VSP, the VEOC contacted DMV reference possible issue of waiver permits for extended hours of operation for private response personnel and vehicles from the pipeline company that will be coming from Pennsylvania to assist in the response.
- An event has been created in Web EOC; 2008-09 Appomattox Gas Explosion.
- ***VDEM Regional Coordinator Cocker and Regional Hazmat Officer Collins returned to the scene on the morning of 15 September. Site gas monitoring was conducted by VDEM Hazmat Officer with negative results.***

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- ***VDEM personnel are assisting Appomattox with recovery efforts and capturing costs for the incident.***
- ***VDEM TSU remains on scene with 2 personnel assisting with communications.***

Local Actions:

- Appomattox County declared a local emergency at 1136 hours 14 September and has activated their EOC.
- One shelter was opened at Appomattox High School with no reported residents. ***At 1647 hours 14 September 46 families had registered at the shelter and 23 of those families had accepted Williams Transco's offer for hotel lodging. The Shelter closed at 1900 hours, 14 September.***
- ***A mile of State Route 26 remains closed near the scene of the pipeline explosion.***
- ***Appomattox EOC was closed at 1900 14 September, local Emergency Declaration remains in effect.***
- ***The Town of Appomattox is manually monitoring the water level on the Town tank due to a power outage.***
- ***During the response on 14 September the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department was supplemented by 5 other local departments.***
- ***Local fire and EMS personnel were released from the scene at 1900 hours, 14 September.***
- ***Local Emergency Management Officials and law enforcement on scene providing assistance to affected residents and maintaining security.***
- ***The Amherst County Mobile Command Post remains on scene to assist with recovery operations.***

Other Actions:

- Per VDEM Regional Coordinator Cocker, pipeline personnel are enroute to the scene from both Houston, Texas and from Pennsylvania.
- VSP and VDOT personnel on scene assisting in response operations.
- Other Federal Agencies are responding to the scene including the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).
- ***USDOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Officials are on scene to conduct investigation.***
- ***VSP, VDOT, Williams Energy/contractors, Central Virginia Electric Cooperative and Verizon are on scene evaluating damages and restoration plans.***

Damage and Injury Reports:

- ***Two residential homes confirmed destroyed, five outbuilding destroyed or damaged, four homes with minor damage and three automobiles destroyed.***

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- ***Five injuries reported, transported to a local hospital and released 14 September.***
- ***Significant damage to Route 26 for ½ mile and to utilities near the scene.***
- ***Pipeline infrastructure damage to be determined.***
- ***42 customers remain without power due to damage to power lines.***
- ***Williams Energy is assisting 5 families with lodging.***

Continuing Actions:

- ***VDEM continues to support Appomattox County Emergency Management with recovery operations.***
- ***Further actions will be determined based on decisions by Williams Energy and Federal Inspectors.***

Next Spot Report will be issued 16 September around 0900 hours

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